

Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area

Where Our Heritage Comes to Life!

2013 Calendar of Events

Old Christmas: Militia Muster at Fort Watauga

Saturday, January 5

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, January 6

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Christmas isn't over yet! European migrants brought Old World holiday traditions to America, from the Dutch Sinter Klaus to the Twelve Days of Christmas. Discover the English, German, Scotch-Irish, and Dutch roots of our modern holiday celebrations. Contact the park for detailed schedule.

Living History – Militia Muster at Fort Watauga

Saturday, February 16

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, February 17

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Visit Fort Watauga and step into a colorful Revolutionary world. Re-enactors portray a variety of characters, from hunters and farmers to land speculators and backcountry gentry. Walk among colonists and native people who share their past through talks, mini-dramas, and demonstrations of 18th century life.

Overmountain Weavers Guild Fibers Show and Sale

Saturday, March 16

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Don't miss this great opportunity to visit with some of the best fiber artists of our region! If you love fibers, this is the place for you! Demonstrations include weaving, spinning, knitting, natural dyeing, and more. A variety of handmade items will be offered for sale.

Carter Mansion Celebration & Militia Muster

Saturday, April 13

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, April 14

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Join us for two days of history, music, and fun at the Carter Mansion, the oldest frame house in Tennessee. Travel back to the 1770s...the American colonies struggle against Britain, and the Patriot frontiersmen gather together to celebrate Independence. See

local craftsmen demonstrate traditional skills such as natural dyeing and colonial cooking.

Landscape Seminar & Plant Auction

Saturday, April 20

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

An exciting array of unusual ornamental & native perennials, trees and shrubs will be auctioned during this event. A great opportunity to add new species to your landscape! Sponsored by The UT Extension Service, E.Tenn. Nursery Assoc., and the Eliz/Carter Co. Chamber of Commerce.

Community Plant Exchange

Saturday, April 27

9:00 am – 10:00 am

The front parking lot will be bustling this morning! Bring cuttings and potted outdoor and indoor plants, to exchange for species you don't have—a fun way to meet other gardeners and increase your collection.

Spinning and Fiber Meet

Saturday, May 4

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Join area fiber artists and producers for a day of spinning, felting, workshops, vendors, fiber sources, competitions and so much more!

Bird Walk with the Lee & Lois Herndon TOS Chapter

Saturday, May 11

8:00 am

Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season.

Colonial Kids at Fort Watauga

Friday, May 17

Reservations Only!

Families, schools, and home school groups are invited to attend this all-day event for kids ages 8-12. Join the Washington County Militia for a taste of 18th century life: black powder muskets, old-time games, marching drills, tomahawk throwing, Dutch-oven cooking, and a host of other colonial activities. Admission is free and groups are welcome, but space is limited. Reservations are required!

19th Annual Siege at Fort Watauga

Saturday & Sunday, May 18 & May 19

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Step back to a vibrant and dangerous time...America declares Independence in the summer of 1776, and people beyond the mountains build forts, stock powder, and sharpen hatchets for the oncoming war. Walk among local legends—the vivacious Bonnie Kate, mysterious Old Abram, dignified Col. Carter, and daring John Sevier—for a glimpse of life on this “dark and bloody ground.” Colonial, native, and British re-enactors share their past through talks, mini-dramas, and demonstrations of 18th century life. Battle re-enactments both days. Contact the park for detailed schedule.

23rd Year in 2013! Sycamore Shoals Native American Festival

Saturday & Sunday, June 1 & 2

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

A two-day celebration of our Native American heritage! Award-winning dancers, storytellers, artists, and scholars gather at the circle to share knowledge and demonstrate their skills. Come and discover Native American arts, music, and legends, with an emphasis on the Cherokee culture. Admissions Charge.

Summer Art Show at Sycamore Shoals

Art show and sale –June 23 - July 28

Meet-the-Artist Awards Reception: Sunday, June 23

1:30 - 4:00 pm

This multi-media exhibit is two art shows in one: “11th annual Judged show” and the “19th annual Watauga Valley Art League Member show”. Public is invited to the June 23 Reception and to enjoy the art exhibit all month.

An 19th Century Independence Celebration & Muster

Saturday June 29

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday June 30

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Experience the 4th of July, 18th century-style! What did colonists think about a new nation? Be a guest in Fort Watauga as news of Independence arrives to the colonial frontier. Walk among historical characters and hear their varied reactions to the Declaration, from fear of war to the hope of a brighter future. The Celebration will take place on Saturday; the muster will continue until Sunday at 3 pm.

Liberty: The Saga of Sycamore Shoals - Our 35th Year!

Thursday – Saturday, July 11 - 13, 18 - 20, & 25 - 27 7:30 pm

Tennessee's official outdoor drama, presented by local performers against the backdrop of Fort Watauga. See the Revolution as told by the Overmountain Men: colonists who defied British law and settled on Cherokee lands. These settlers formed an independent government, made treaties with the Cherokee, defended their homes, and fought a British army at the epic battle of King's Mountain. Bleacher seating is available in the Amphitheater. Sponsored by Friends of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area. Admissions Charge.

“Newell Hendershot Watermedia Exhibition”

The 8th bi-annual Watermedia Exhibit

Thursday, August 1 - August 28

1:30 pm - 4:00pm

Closing Reception: Sunday August 25th

1:30 pm - 4:00pm

Participating artists belong to at least one of the following Tennessee art organizations: Bristol Art Guild, Kingsport Art Guild, Tennessee Watercolor Society, or Watauga Valley Art League. A **Watermedia Workshop** will be scheduled August 23, 24 and end on Sunday, August 25th with a 1:30 demonstration by the workshop artist (to be announced) followed by a closing reception. Public invited to enjoy the exhibit and the Sunday, August 25th events.

11th Annual Elizabethton Butterfly Count

Sunday August 4

9:00 am & 1:00 pm

Meet naturalist Don Holt at Sycamore Shoals for this day-long winged adventure across town. Come for all or part of the day. Sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association & Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area. (Rain Date to be announced).

Civil War Camp at the Carter Mansion

Dates and times to be announced.

Step back to the 1860s when East Tennessee was a hotbed of activity during the War Between the States! Visit the camp and witness Life as it was 150 years ago. Experience the roar of the cannon, the rattle of muskets, the smell of the cook's fire, & the melodies of camp!

13th Annual Sycamore Shoals Celtic Festival

Friday – Sunday, September 6, 7, and 8

Friday Night Torchlight Ceremony 6:30 pm

Saturday – Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday Night Concert 6:30 pm

Celebrate Appalachia's Celtic heritage! Opening with a torchlight ceremony Friday night, Clans and Family Societies will be on hand to help with family history; dance, music, food, vendors, demonstrations, reenactments of 18th & 19th Century heritage, lectures, and a special musical concert on Saturday evening. Admissions Charge.

Overmountain Victory Trail Celebration

Saturday, September 21 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, September 22 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Join us for an encampment by the Overmountain militia before the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780. Live some of the most crucial days of the American Revolution!

Overmountain Victory Trail March

Wednesday, September 25 2:00 pm (approximate time)

Members of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association have recreated the historic march to King's Mountain since 1975. On September 25, marchers will cross the Watauga River at Sycamore Shoals, just as the Overmountain militia crossed 233 years ago.

Bird Walks with the Lee & Lois Herndon TOS Chapter

Saturdays, October 5, 12, 19, 26 8:00 am

Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season.

Fort Watauga Knap-In

Saturday & Sunday, October 5 & 6 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Knapping—with a “K”—has nothing to do with sleep! Knapping is the art of making stone tools, and the Knap-In at Fort Watauga is our celebration of Tennessee Archaeology Week. Watch primitive skills craftsmen make arrowheads, spear points, and other survival tools. There will be demonstrations of primitive tools such as the bow, arrow, and atlatl throughout the day.

19th Annual Sycamore Shoals Quilt Show

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, October 3, 4, 5

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Sunday, October 6

1 pm – 4:30 pm

This four-day exhibition, sponsored by the Sycamore Shoals Stitchers, features a show and demonstrations by local quilters held in the park museum. Bed quilts, wall hangings, holiday and baby quilts, miniatures and antique quilts will be on display.

Scary Stories at the Carter Mansion

Thursday, October 24

7:30 pm

Strange things happen around All Hallows Eve, especially at a 200 year-old mansion. Bring the family and join us for tales of woe and terror, the weird and macabre, with a touch of wit thrown in for good measure. Don't be afraid, the graveyard at the Carter Mansion isn't haunted... we think!

Harvest Celebration & Militia Muster at Fort Watauga

Saturday, November 16

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, November 17

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

It's a jollification! The Washington County Militia musters its troops for good times and good cheer! Re-enactors in period dress provide demonstrations of old-time skills and scenes from daily life in America's colonial past.

Winterfest Art Show

Month of December until January 4th

Opening Reception: Sunday, December 1

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Kick off the holidays at Sycamore Shoals! The Watauga Valley Art League exhibition and sale begins with a reception on December 1 with great opportunities for holiday shopping! Artwork from the Watauga Valley Art League will remain on display in the museum during regular park hours throughout the month of December until January 4th.

Lamplight Christmas Wreath Exhibit

Month of December until January 4th

A visit to the park Visitors Center is sure to inspire as the rooms will be graced with wreaths of all designs and colors hung from old time lampposts. Please contact the park

to request a place in this show. Wreaths will be made by community members, civic groups, and schools to bring to life the Christmas spirit of our region.

Christmas at the Carter Mansion

Friday & Saturday, December 6 & 7

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Spend a candlelit evening in the oldest frame house in Tennessee, decorated with bright greenery for the holidays. Enjoy music, refreshments, and costumed interpreters acting out scenes from an 18th century Christmas.

Throughout the Year

Traditional Arts Workshops

January - December

Dates and times vary.

Catch this unique opportunity to learn traditional art forms from expert instructors. Pre-registration is required in addition to an instructor and materials fee. Ask for our separate listing!

Gardening Series with Ben Hunter

Sponsored by the NE. TN Master Gardeners

Each session – 10:00 am - 1 pm

Saturday, February 2, 2013 – Raised Bed Gardening

Saturday, March 2, 2013 – Vegetable Gardening

Saturday, August 3, 2013 – Extend Your Growing Season

Saturday, October 19, 2013 - Get Ready for Spring: Winterizing Your Beds

Gardener extraordinaire, Ben Hunter, will be joining us to share his experiences & techniques for growing the garden of your dreams! Each program meets in the park theater.

Shape Note Singing - Led by Don Wiley

3rd Sunday of each Month

2:00 pm – 4 pm

January – April, June, September - November

Sing the shapes! In this early musical tradition, “shapes” represented each note of the do-re-mi scale. Although many Appalachian frontiersmen could not read, they achieved

beautiful four-part harmonies through this simplified method of learning music. We invite you to join “The Old Fields Singers” for an experience you will not forget.

The Liberty Spinners

2nd Tuesday of the Month, April to November

9:30 am – 12 pm

This gathering of spinners and fiber artists is open to anyone interested in the art of spinning. Join us at 9:30 am on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (April to November).

Old Time Music Jam – Led by Art Lang

4th Sunday of each Month

1:30 pm – 4 pm

Enjoy the rich musical traditions of our region each month. Old time musicians of all levels are welcome. Don't play an instrument? Come on over, kick back, and enjoy the tunes!

Watauga Valley Fife & Drum Corps

Saturdays

10:00 am – 12 pm

The Fife & Drum Corps performs at historical events, dedications, and parades. This group is open to anyone ages 13 & up. Musical experience is welcome but not necessary; just come with a willingness to learn. Meet our volunteer coordinator John Large at the Sycamore Shoals Visitors Center. Lessons are free of charge, just call and let us know you're coming!

Friends of Sycamore Shoals Meetings

January – December

The Friends of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area sponsors many events here at the park. If you would like to be a part of what goes on behind the scenes, join us for our meetings! They are open to members, non-members, and prospective members alike. Call the park for meeting times and programs.

History at Home

May - August

A creative mix of historical & natural programs presented throughout the summer by our seasonal interpretive staff. Please call for weekly schedules.

Visitors Center Hours:

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Saturday

1:00 PM – 4:30 PM Sunday

Our Visitors Center is closed on most State holidays.

Park grounds are open from dawn until dusk.

For more information contact:

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www.tnstateparks.com/SycamoreShoals/